

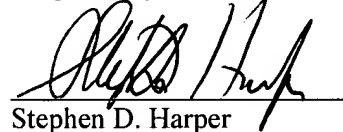
**Preliminary Amendment at Entry into the U. S. National Stage of International Application
PCT/US00/05458, filed March 2, 2000 *continued*
M 6712 HST/NI PCT/US**

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8 and 11 have been amended so as to make each of said claims dependent upon only one other claim. New claims 12-21 have been added for the purpose of claiming specific embodiments of Applicants' invention. No new matter has been introduced.

The specification has been amended to correct an informality. The amendments to the claims and specification are shown in the separately enclosed document entitled "Version Marked to Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 12, line 1, has been amended as follows:

[Claims] What is claimed is:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 7, 8 and 11 have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A liquid composition according to [any one of claims 1 through 6] claim 1, additionally comprising at least one additive selected from the group consisting of nitrous acid, permanganic acid, peroxysulfuric acid, hydrogen peroxide, chloric acid, perchloric acid, nitrobenzene sulfonic acid, hydroxylamine, starch/phosphoric acid esters, fluorine compounds, and salts of all of the other materials previously recited in this group for which salts are known.
8. (Amended) A process for forming a zinc phosphate conversion coating on a metal substrate without generating any sludge thereby, said process comprising operations of:
- (I) bringing said metal substrate into contact with a volume of a liquid composition according to [any one of claims 1 through 7] claim 1, said volume of liquid composition also being in contact with a counter electrode that is distinct from said metal substrate; and
 - (II) causing electric current to flow in a cathodizing direction through said metal substrate into said volume of liquid composition and through said counter electrode.

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11. (Amended) A process according to [any one of claims 8 through 10] claim 8, wherein prior to operation (I), said metal substrate is brought into contact with a weakly basic aqueous colloidal solution that contains titanium oxide, titanium hydroxide, and zinc phosphate.

05458-01-03101